

Mr. Meredith's Speech.

(Continued from 2nd page.)

ground that it was a coalition Government by reason of Messrs M C Cameron and John Carling being members of it, and although they could not find fault with the manner in which Mr Sandfield Macdonald administered the affairs of the country, they said that nevertheless it must be corrupt because it was a coalition. They also took the position that his railway policy was an interference with the rights of the representatives of the people, and objected to his undertaking the location of public buildings for which the Legislature voted money. These were the four principal grounds on which they appealed to the people. The question for consideration was how far had the Reform Party been consistent with the professions upon the strength of which they induced the people to place them in power. Why the very act which created the Government of Mr Blake was one by which he abandoned the principles upon which he had objected to the Government of Sandfield Macdonald, for by taking Mr Scott, a strong Conservative, into the Cabinet, he formed a coalition. He Mr. Meredith, cared not how high Mr Blake's reputation was; by that act he was guilty of a political wrong for which his party should be held responsible. Cheers. What position had the Reform Government taken in regard to their principle about the alliance between the two Governments. From first to last, there had been the closest alliance between the Governments of Mr McKenzie and Mr Mowat. At the last general elections for the Commons, in every constituency in the country almost every member of the Ontario Administration was going about advocating the cause of the Dominion Government. Was not this an abandonment of a principle they had professed? Mr Mowat who claimed to be a conscientious man, felt it to be so, for in addressing a public meeting in the interests of Mr Mackenzie's Government, he felt constrained to say he came there not as the Hon Mr Mowat but as a private citizen. But it was impossible for any member of the Cabinet to divest himself of the influence of his local position, and this was not the intention, and in this matter also they were false to the pledges made to the people. Cheers. Then in regard to the million and a half voted for railways, the position taken by Sandfield Macdonald was that the money having been appropriated by Parliament for the purpose of building railways, the Government, while responsible to the House, should say to what railways that aid should be given. The Opposition objected, and said that each appropriation should be submitted to vote of the House. There might be something in that contention, but he asked, what did they do when they got into power. They repealed Mr Sandfield Macdonald's Act, and made provision that the Government might, by order-in-Council, make appropriations for these railways, which should be submitted for the assent of Parliament; but they brought these appropriations down to the House at the close of the session, and refused to give the representatives of the people five days to discuss them, but pushed them through en bloc, and voted away hundreds of thousands of dollars of the people's money. Was this a substantial compliance with their pledges. Time should have been given for the consideration of the claims of the railway companies, and without this the proceeding was a farce, and the arrangement of Mr Sandfield Macdonald a far better one. Hear, hear. With regard to the location of public buildings, it was thought that if they had a certain sum with which to build, it should be stated what place the building should be located. They did not do this, however, but availed themselves of a provision in the constitution, by which it was impossible for an appropriation to be made without a recommendation from the Lieut-Governor, and when money was recommended, they brought down also a recommendation of his Honor that the expenditure should be at a particular place, and the House had no alternative but to pass the proposition, or vote it down altogether, as no amendment could be made to such a recommendation. This was giving the people a stone when they asked for bread, because the House had either to do without the public building altogether, or take it in the place recommended by the Lieut-Governor. Upon every ground upon which they had sought the condemnation of Mr Sandfield Macdonald, they had been false to the pledges made to the people, and had in substance abandoned every one of them. Cheers. Perhaps the most important function which a Government had to perform is the administration of the finances of the country. It was somewhat a dry subject, but he had to ask their careful consideration to a comparison he was about to make of the condition of affairs under the administrations of Mr Sandfield Macdonald and Mr Mowat respectively, by which they would be able to judge whether the Mowat Government had conducted the finances in the interests of economy and of the people. The Treasurer, Mr Wood, in his budget speech, made last session, claimed that the surplus which his Government had, now amounted to \$4,430,993. Mr Wood made up that statement by claiming that there were \$2,172,010 of investments in Dominion bonds; \$553,540 in drainage debentures; \$2,786,418 of special or trust funds in the hands of the Dominion Government; \$165,541, a share of the old Parliament of Canada, assigned to Ontario; \$144,135 balance due on account of the Municipal Loan Fund; \$19,000 balance due on Mechanic's Institute; \$9,012 due by Credit Valley railway for land, and balance from Mimico farm, \$6,305, making a total of \$5,842,748. Mr Wood made his liabilities, including the share of the land fund, which belongs to the Province of Quebec, \$1,411,465, which being deducted from the gross surplus, left a balance of \$4,430,993. They would observe that in this statement Mr Wood included not merely the money invested and actually in hand, but also the large sum of \$2,786,418 of the trust funds in the hands of the Dominion Government, \$141,135 balance due on Municipal Loan Fund, and several small sums due for lands. Now, when Mr Sandfield Macdonald dealt with the surplus, what he meant to convey was that he was dealing with the actual money saved out of the annual revenue of the country. On the 31st December, 1871, Mr Sandfield Macdonald had in actual money paid out for debentures of the Government, and for money on special deposit, \$3,637,979 (page 10, Public account, 1871). These moneys were composed of \$150,000 worth of 5 per cent debentures, \$705,471 of 6 per cents, and \$1,192,333 Dominion bonds, and special deposits in the bank of \$890,174. Now \$250,000 stg. of the Dominion bonds had been purchased at 98 and had increased in value, and the additional two per cent. would represent \$44,820, the market value of these debentures increased by \$111,857 over par. The actual balance in the bank on ordinary current account was \$172,985, so that Mr Sandfield Macdonald had in actual cash and actual investments \$3,947,642 saved out of the ordinary revenue of the Province during the four years he was in power.

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Pledging myself, if elected, to use every endeavor to largely reduce the expenditure, I respectfully solicit your vote and influence.

Yours truly, WILLIAM TYRRELL.

Table with columns for Year, Expenditure, Revenue, and Deficit. Data for years 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, and Total excess of expenditure over revenue.

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